

# 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH POLE TRANSIT BY USS "NAUTILUS"

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the historic ship USS *Nautilus*, SSN-571, and her historic submerged transit of the North Pole on August 3, 1958.

The USS *Nautilus* was the first commissioned nuclear-powered ship in the U.S. Navy. President Harry S. Truman laid the keel for the future ship on June 14, 1952, at the Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, CT. Two years later, First Lady Mamie Eisenhower launched the history-making nuclear submarine when she broke the traditional bottle of champagne across the bow of the USS *Nautilus*.

On the morning of January 17, 1955, at 11:00 a.m. EST, the *Nautilus*'s first Commanding Officer, Commander Eugene P. Wilkinson, ordered all lines cast off and signaled the memorable message, "Underway On Nuclear Power."

During its shakedown on May 10, 1956, the USS *Nautilus* cruised from Groton, CT, to San Juan, PR, in fewer than 90 hours, fully submerged for the entire journey. The underwater distance—1,381 miles—was ten times farther than any submerged submarine had previously sailed. Following this journey, the *Nautilus* would shatter all submerged speed and distance records over the remainder of the decade.

In response to the nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile threat posed by the Soviet Union following the launch of the first satellite *Sputnik*, President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the U.S. Navy to attempt a submarine transit to the North Pole to gain credibility for the soon-to-come submarine-launched ballistic missile weapons system still in research and development.

On July 23, 1958, the USS *Nautilus* departed Pearl Harbor, HI, under top secret orders to conduct Operation Sunshine, the first crossing of the North Pole by a ship.

Eleven days later, Commander William R. Anderson announced to the 116 men aboard, "For the world, our country, and the Navy: THE NORTH POLE." Thus, on August 3, 1958, the USS *Nautilus* became the first watercraft to reach the geographic North Pole, 90 degrees north, known also as the geographic "top of the world."

Following this momentous voyage, the USS *Nautilus* and her crew earned the Presidential Unit Citation, the first ever awarded in peacetime.

After Operation Sunshine, the USS *Nautilus* enjoyed many more successes in her long and illustrious career of duty in the U.S. Navy, such as in October 1962, when she participated in the naval quarantine of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Over the years, the USS *Nautilus* played an integral part in numerous North Atlantic Treaty Organization—NATO—exercises and a variety of de-

velopmental test programs. On September 14, 1966, the USS *Nautilus* celebrated 300,000 nautical miles of ocean faring.

Having pioneered the use of nuclear power at sea, the USS *Nautilus* continued to serve alongside many of the more modern nuclear-powered submarines. In April 1975, the USS *Nautilus* participated in Exercise Agate Punch. She was cited by the Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group 12 as "Not Getting Older—Getting Better."

In the spring of 1977, the USS *Nautilus* deployed for the last time to the Mediterranean Sea, and on April 9, 1979, the *Nautilus* set out from Groton, CT, on her final voyage to Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, CA. On May 25, 1979, the USS *Nautilus* shut down her reactor for the final time, and she reached Mare Island 4 days later.

Following a career spanning 25 years and over half a million miles steamed, she decommissioned on March 3, 1980.

On May 14, 1980, President Jimmy Carter authorized Groton, CT, as the permanent home for the USS *Nautilus*, and on May 20, 1982, the USS *Nautilus* was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior. Following an extensive historic ship conversion at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, the *Nautilus* was towed to Groton, CT, for the final time, arriving on July 6, 1985, in preparation for display to the public as a museum.

On April 11, 1986, 86 years to the day after the birth of the submarine force, the historic ship *Nautilus*, joined by the Submarine Force Museum, opened to the public as the first and finest exhibit of its kind in the world, providing an educational and visible link to yesterday's nuclear-powered submarine.

I am delighted to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the North Pole transit by USS *Nautilus*, SSN-571, and her accomplishments over the last 64 years. The historic ship *Nautilus* is a testament to American ingenuity, courage, and technical prowess. She deserves the greatest reverence and continues to serve as a reminder to future generations of Americans as she rests alongside modern day nuclear submarines at the Naval Submarine Base New London.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE SHAMBAUGH

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I want to express my appreciation to Dr. George Shambaugh. George is an associate professor of international affairs and government in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. However, over the last year, he served as a fellow on my national security team.

George supported my work related to foreign policy and development, including my work on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. George is an exceptionally accomplished and impressive individual who made a significant and durable contribution. His contributions

related to economic statecraft, geopolitical energy issues, and transatlantic security have been particularly valuable. It is rare to find such an accomplished and intelligent individual who also brings a humble and eager desire to help however needed.

George will be returning to his post at Georgetown, where I know he will continue to excel as a scholar and professor. I wish him the best in the future, and I look forward to staying in touch with him.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### REMEMBERING WALTER "BOOTS" MAYBERRY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Walter "Boots" Mayberry, a World War II airman from Harrison, AR, whose military service, life, and career exemplify what it means to be a true patriot.

Walter "Boots" Mayberry was born in Pine Bluff, AR, on August 11, 1923, to a large family. Mayberry's nickname, "Boots," came about during the Great Flood of 1927. His older sister, Dell, took the 4-year-old Mayberry into town and bought him a pair of rubber boots with rubber red tops. From then on, Mayberry could always be found with his boots on, regardless of if he was bathing, in church, or in bed. The nickname became official when he began first grade and told the teacher that his name was "Boots Mayberry."

Mayberry graduated high school in 1943 and was drafted shortly thereafter. He reported for duty at Camp Robinson and volunteered to join the Army Air Corps. After extensive training in several Stateside locations, he was attached to the 560th Bomb Squadron of the 388th Bomb Group in the 8th Air Corps. He was based at Knettishall, England, with the mission to bomb Germany and German-held territories, something he and the rest of the "Mighty 8th" did with honor.

Mayberry served as a waist gunner, defending his B-17 from enemy fighter planes. He and his aircrew successfully completed nine missions before being hit by enemy fire on their 10th mission. Despite the severe damage to the plane, the pilot kept on course and dropped the bombs on their target. Mayberry and the crew were forced to bail out of the plane, which was a problem for Mayberry who never learned how to use a parachute because he never thought he would have to use one. Falling head first, he pulled the ripcord and the force broke his neck. As he drifted to the ground, he was in the crosshairs of German ground fire.

Paralyzed and lying in a field, German civilians brutally checked Mayberry over before soldiers locked him up in a local jail. He was detained with another airman from his crew in a different secure facility for 10 days of solitary confinement. From there, he was taken to Frankfurt for interrogation and moved to several locations before ending up in a German POW camp,